

reforms in the judiciary, and in other departments of the government, and if the unholy hands of party spirit would keep its unholy touch from the new Constitution, he would support it. But before supporting the new Constitution, he must require the insertion of a clause in the Constitution securing specifically and providing that the people should have an opportunity of voting periodically, and calling a Convention irrespective of legislative action. Then a remedy would be obtained in another generation, against any injustice we might inflict. In proportion as you modify oppression now, in proportion as you soften the system of injustice, you perpetuate the mitigated rigors of tyranny. Why, he was rather for letting the rigors of tyranny remain, in order that the moral sense of mankind, might be roused until right should prevail.

He believed, let them adopt any unequal basis they pleased, that in five years there would be a call from Baltimore city and Western Maryland for another Convention, and it would be then denounced, as we denounce, the present basis.

Now, those were his, [Mr. B's.,] principles. Having taken his position, he would not vote for any compromise, other than that which had principle in it, and if it had representation based upon population, then he would support it even for the House of Delegates alone. He was free to say, that he was anxious to see another great principle incorporated in the Constitution. He would like to see the Governor invested with the veto power—have the same check over both branches of the legislature, as in the federal Constitution.

Those were the reasons why he was opposed to this compromise, because he could not draw unjust distinctions between Baltimore city and the several counties. He knew that there were gentlemen of more sagacity and experience than himself, in the Convention, to whose arguments and views he should listen with the deepest attention; but still he deemed it his duty to be governed by his conscience, and by all the light of experience and wisdom he could gather, and he had brought his mind to the conclusion that he had just indicated.

Mr. GWINN said, that as several gentlemen had seen fit to express their opinions in reference to the votes they had given, he thought it right that he should add a few words as to the considerations governing him on this question. He felt some responsibility as to the result of the labors of the Convention, because he, in common with the larger portion of the last Legislature, had been instrumental in bringing it about. And it would be to him, a matter of sincere regret, if they should fail in adopting any instrument here, or if it should be rejected by the people of the State. When he voted for the bill, on which this Convention is organized, he was governed by the previous conduct of the Reform Party of the State, both Whig and Democratic; and by the course pursued by the delegates from Baltimore city in past Legislatures; and he knew that if that basis was not assented to, all hope of a Convention, on any basis, was at an end. But he had hoped that, when the experienced and venerable

men of the State were assembled together in Convention—men who were free from the dominion of local prejudice, and themselves the most fitting exponents of public opinion—whose chief responsibility was to God, and to posterity—the same justice would be meted out to each part of the State, which they would, under the dictates of their individual consciences, have accorded to each man in their social walks and in all the private relations of society. He knew that those, who possessed the control of political power, would be unwilling to deprive their constituents of those powers, which they had before enjoyed; and he took it for granted that in the conflict of interests, a compromise plan must ultimately be agreed to, by some portion of the body. And, speaking for himself, he had thought it most likely that he would be constrained to vote for some proposition, other than what he desired, lest the very labors of the Reform Party should come altogether to an unhappy end.

In this he did not consider that he was *compromising* the question, or abandoning a principle. It was but the acceptance of an instalment of those political dues, which sooner or later, must be wholly paid. The moment that he discovered that he could not carry out those principles into practical effect, which he was instructed to advocate, and that, notwithstanding this, a Constitution would be framed, his next solemn duty was, whatever his own vote upon the Constitution might be, to give his people an opportunity of voting for or against the most favorable instrument, which the Convention here assembled could frame. He differed from his colleague with regard to the propriety of the course which he should pursue. If he intended to vote for a Constitution—under any circumstances—which did not recognize, absolutely, the principle of population, he deemed it his duty to make the Constitution in this particular, as acceptable as possible. And for his own part, he could see no difference between supporting a limited representation as a part of a whole system, and voting for it in the first instance. And certainly he would esteem it wiser to engraft the best scheme of representation he could obtain upon the system, than to reject all chance of advantage on this point, and then vote for the whole Constitution, if it proved agreeable upon other points.

He had voted against the plan of the gentleman from Washington, when it was offered, however, because he did not conceive that it was a sufficient compromise at all, on the part of those counties most largely interested in the question of reform, or that the opinion of the House had been fairly tested. He did not mean to detract from the sacrifices which the gentleman from Washington had made in departing from the old system, nor to say, that the western counties, in conceding a part of their own political power, had not manifested a disposition to produce some good result. But the question now was, what concession had they made?

He trusted in God—and he said this with deep earnestness—that gentlemen from the upper coun-